

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number : 10/552,552 Confirmation No.: 2007  
First named Inventor : Marc De Block  
Filing date : July 10, 2005  
Title : METHODS AND MEANS FOR INCREASING THE TOLERANCE OF PLANTS TO STRESS CONDITIONS  
TC/Art unit : 1638  
Examiner : Vinod KUMAR  
Docket No. : 58764.000049  
Customer No. : 21967

**MAIL STOP AF**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME, AMENDMENT,**  
**AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

Applicant provides the following response to the Final Office Action mailed October 9, 2009 (“Office Action”), in the above-captioned application.

**PETITION FOR TWO MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME**

Applicant respectfully petitions for a two month extension of time to submit a response, thereby extending the period within which to file a response up to and including March 9, 2010. Accordingly, this response is timely filed within the paid-for extensions of time.

The USPTO is authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 50-0206** in the amount of \$490.00 to cover the two month extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2). Applicant believes that no other fees are due. However, in the event that additional fees are required to enter this response, the USPTO is authorized to charge such fees to **Deposit Account No. 50-0206**.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2;

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper; and